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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Internal Conditions; Camps; Military Situation;
Warehouses

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1. In September 1950 all Albanians were assessed a tax amounting from 10 to 50 lek per family for the benefit of North Korea.
2. The Albanian Government is preparing to send to the Soviet Union the entire crop of maize and barley which is being gathered for this purpose in Peqin. From there it will be transported by rail to the port of Durres.
3. Opposition to the Regime
 - a. In July 1950 there was a revolt by military units against the regime. Many officers participated although the revolt was betrayed. The rebel group consisted of army officers and Security Police who were dissatisfied with the Soviet administration in Albania. The leader of the revolt was allegedly the then Deputy Chief of Staff Nexhip Vencaniz.
 - b. The commanding officer of the Security Police of Tirana and about 30 policemen, all participants in the revolt, fled to Yugoslavia.
 - c. During the revolt above there were similar clashes in Vlone and Sasenc Island. Those from Sasenc attempted to escape in three motorboats but were captured.
4. Camps
 - a. In Tepelene there is a camp for exiles from northern and central Albania which has 2,800 inmates.
 - b. In Kruja, Shkoder, and Shijak there are camps for exiles from the regions of Gjinokaster and Korce. In the Kruja camp are mostly Northern Epirot Greeks. Such Greeks are also being held in the camp of Iliriku and Tirane. It is estimated that there are 12,000 prisoners in the above camps.
 - c. In Lushnje there are 500 exiles from the region of Himare and Tepelene.

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5. On 22 September an unidentified airplane flew over the regions of Fier, Lushnje, Peqin, and Elbasan and scattered pamphlets denouncing the Communist regime.

6. Army

- a. The newly-formed Tank Regiment is concentrated in Kavaja. There are approximately 80 to 100 Soviet light tanks in Kavaja.
- b. An engineer battalion from Shkoder has been camped near the bank of the river Shkumbi at point G.43-09. It will probably undertake the construction of military works (sic).

7. Border Guards

A border guard battalion is based in Fier. It controls the coastal area from Himare to the mouth of the Semeni. North of this sector is the area of another border guard battalion whose base may be at Aleshi. Posts are located at the following places:

- a. In the village of Divjake, a platoon with a strength of 30 men.
- b. In the village of Rajk, a platoon with a strength of 30 men.
- c. In the village of Beracan, a unit with a strength of 100 men distributed near the coast in four guard posts.
- d. The region from the mouth of the Semeni to Kavaja is forbidden to civilians, and it is alleged that fortifications are being constructed in the area.
- e. At point G.07-64 there are six to eight large coastal guns.

8. Recruiting

- a. Men between the ages of 30 and 50 who received two months military training have been demobilized.
- b. The more recent military classes were mobilized between 15 and 30 September 1950. They reported to the recruiting stations in Gjinokaster, Korce, Tirane, and Shkoder. The recruits are receiving heavy machine gun, mortar, and artillery training. Training in civil air defense is being given in Tirane.

9. Warehouses

- a. On the slopes of a small hill two to three kilometers east of Gergenj there are three newly-constructed ammunition warehouses. Each warehouse is 25 meters long, and three to four meters high. There is a road from the warehouse to the Gergenj highway. In front of the warehouses are two small barracks for the military guard which consists of 10 men and a first sergeant in charge.
- b. Warehouses for storing war material have been constructed on a hill between the villages of Retrel and Berahite at point G.36-35, 1,000 meters south of the river Erzen and west of the highway from Tirane to Elbasan. Material is being transported to the warehouses in trucks, probably from Durres or Tirane.

25X1A

Comment: Although reports of internal disturbances have been forthcoming, the contents of paragraph 3 appear somewhat doubtful in view of the lack of specific confirmation. Col. Nexhip Vincani was reported by Tirane broadcast on 11 March 1950 as excluded from the ranks of the Central Committee of the Albanian Communist Party for serious errors and mistakes in his State and party work; but a recent (January 1951) order of battle reported Vincani as deputy to Lt. General Beqir Balluku, Chief of the Armed Forces.

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